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the subordinate parts of his own field, and while following the paths that most attract him, will be saved from narrowness of outlook.

Bibliography, finally, serves to indicate the parts of a field of knowledge that remain untilled. When Winsor Jones was librarian of the British Museum, Justin Winsor once said to him: "How often does it happen that a special student, seeking the utmost recesses of his subject, can find all he desires in your collection?" Jones's answer was: "Not one such investigator in ten is satisfied." "Because you haven't the books he needs?" Winsor inquired. "Yes, partly for that reason," Jones replied, "but still in good part because the books he wishes do not exist. When you have been a librarian as long as I have," he added, "you will be convinced of the small margin of the bounds of knowledge as yet covered by printed books." It is in defining the boundaries of knowledge, and determining the starting point of research, that bibliography serves its highest purpose.

The Association then passed to the consideration of reports of Committees and Mr N. D. C. HODGES presented the

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY WORK WITH THE BLIND

Thrashing about for a proper opening to this report it seemed to the Chairman that nothing could serve better than a few terse paragraphs from a letter of Dr Steiner's. While not brief enough to serve as a formal text, they have that firmness and clean-cuttedness which make them suitable for a head to which may be attached such verbiage as may follow.

Dr Steiner, of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, writes:

"We have a department for the blind, containing 1025 volumes in New York point and line letter type, using these types inasmuch as the New York point is that used by our two state schools for white and black pupils. The books are cataloged in the same way as all other books in the library. Last year we circulated

545 volumes for the blind. A year and a half ago, taking advantage of the free carriage through the mails of books for the blind, we began sending these books to the blind persons throughout the state, having made an agreement with the State library commission which body assumed responsibility for the safe return of the books, and agreed to pay us the sum of fifteen cents for each book circulated.

"We do not have readings for the blind. Mr Frederick D. Morrison, for many years Superintendent of the Maryland school for the blind, was much opposed to these readings, and we have accepted the policy of the school as our own. I believe it is very important to be in close harmony with the instructors of the blind. We do not give instruction ourselves, nor do we believe it to be the proper function of the public library. Our funds for the purchase of books for the blind are taken from our regular book fund.

"The public library has no business to visit the blind or aid in securing them work, any more than it has to render these services to any other class of the community. We should always bear in mind that we are libraries and that our business is to disseminate literature."

In the summer of 1900 a blind girl, led by her sister, called upon the librarian of the Public library of Cincinnati and solicited his aid in starting some work for the blind of that city. The librarian, knowing that his trustees were soft-hearted and—with all due deference—believing them to be soft-headed, restrained the well-intentioned impulses of the board to take the work immediately under its patronage, buy embossed books and salary an attendant out of the public funds

The librarian secured the board's approval for the use of a room for the blind and aided in getting volunteers from among the good men and women of Cincinnati to read to the blind on stated days. He then urged this girl, Miss Georgia D. Trader, to go among the philanthropic people of the community and secure funds for the purchase of the needed books.

That librarian informs us that he takes no little pride in all that heartless action and heartless advice. Nothing would have been easier than to have had in Cincinnati a room well filled with embossed books, an

attendant seated in their midst, and all as smug and lifeless as only such a special collection can be—the whole paid for out of the public purse.

It is very likely true that a library should remain a library and do a library's work, and herein lies one reason why this work for the blind should be fostered not by the Public library directly but by some adjunct society which need place no restrictions on its methods and on its purposes so long as those methods and those purposes are such as appeal to good people.

There grew from that little seedling of a few volunteer readers—work which was copied from that already under way in the Library of Congress and at the Free library in Philadelphia—a library association for the blind, which had back of it the good will, the good services and the good money of several hundred Cincinnatians. Blind men and women were taught to read and write, and blind children were regularly instructed for the first time within the city limits, though the State at the institution in Columbus had previously cared for young people. When this schooling of the young had grown beyond the powers of the Association, the Board of education was persuaded to establish a school for the blind. And a second budding from the Society was a comfortable home for indigent blind women.

That home, planned to accommodate a few blind women, has within a few weeks stretched its resources to accommodate a further development of the industrial training of the blind—a school of weaving, weaving of carpets and weaving of laces; and all the while there has been kept up at the Public library the work which was the primary purpose—the readings for the blind, the entertainments for the blind, the instruction of the blind and the circulation of books. And the books, not being purchased though the public funds, can be sent as far as Uncle Sam's mails will carry them.

It is not the intention of this report to mete out justice to each and all of those who have aided in developing this work.

There is a little town not so far from Cincinnati the name of which all the library workers in the West utter with deference—Dayton. Now Dayton has profited as usual by the errors of her bigger neighbors, and instead of the auxiliary society being called the "Library society for the blind," in Dayton that Society has been named the "Association for the promotion of the interests of the blind." This association is something of an infant. It was born only in March. Its pedigree runs along lines similar to that of the Cincinnati society. At first the work was cared for by the Public library, later personally by individuals on the library staff. Now what goes on at the Library is but one department of the above-named society. Cincinnati must prepare to be jealous as usual of her little neighbor. This Dayton society has already secured a fine office and clubrooms in one of the downtown buildings, and a stall in the Arcade for the sale of goods—these the gift of one of Dayton's wealthy citizens.

The President of the Society began by being interested in one blind girl, and then the library people showed her the group listening to readings at the Public library. The librarian talked with this lady, often suggesting the need of industrial training and means of exchange and sale of the blind's handiwork as well as the need of teaching. The result is the launching of a new enterprise which has secured plenty of interest and backing. The reading circle, which has become a department of the Society's activities, is all that remains at the Public library.

Cleveland is doing what she can to foster the interests of the blind. Encouraged by her success with an initial effort at the Public library, Cleveland now rejoices in a society for promoting the interests of the blind, and Mr Brett informed the chairman in a recent letter that the net receipts of a bazar, held a few weeks ago for the benefit of the Society, were over \$800.

Buffalo is following along on much the same path. A letter from the librarian, dated May 1, brings with it a newspaper clipping to the effect that fully 50 enthu-

slastic women, with a few equally zealous men, had attended a meeting for the purpose of discussing the project of organizing an association for the education of the blind in Buffalo and vicinity. Miss Winifred Holt of New York, Secretary of the New York association, was there to tell them what might be done. The result was a determination to hold another meeting for the formal organization of such an association.

We have referred at some length to these outgrowths from that work for the blind most appropriately carried on at libraries, and we hope that there is justification for this apparent wandering from the immediate matter in hand. The chairman of this committee, during a visit to England five years ago, was interested in finding that the technical schools which it was urged ten or twenty years ago were so much needed in England, and which are now blooming out in many of the larger cities, owe their existence in some cases, to feeble efforts at technical education in basement rooms in public libraries. The Chamber of commerce of Cincinnati is a child of the Mercantile library. We should always "bear in mind that we are libraries and that our business is to disseminate literature," but may we not also bear in mind that we are intellectual centers from which naturally enough may start movements which shall mold the unformed protoplasm of public opinion, that our environment may be the healthier and happier.

Before passing from the consideration of such local societies which care for the interests of the blind, we must stop a moment to bow with respect to two libraries in which pioneer efforts in this direction were made. We refer to the Library of Congress and to the Free library of Philadelphia. In both of these libraries the work for the blind has been persistently prosecuted and crowned with success. Thanks to an appropriation made by the legislature of Pennsylvania during the session of 1905 it became possible for the

Philadelphia society to expand. That organizations that we must now give some home teaching society and free circulating library for the blind, and it is to such state organizations that we must now give some consideration.

The revenues for the Pennsylvania society come from two sources: The Free library of Philadelphia buys some of the books and provides a room, while more books and the traveling expenses and salaries of the teachers are paid for by the Society. The number of volumes is close to 2500, plus some duplicate stock in Moon type. The circulation during the year 1906 came to 9829, which far outstrips the circulation of any other library for the blind. The catalog of books in American Braille is now being embossed. Fifty copies will be printed. This will circulate without charge, with a time limit of two weeks. It is hoped to have a similar catalog for the books in other types. The State board of charities recommended to the legislature that \$4000 be appropriated for the next two years. A bill to this effect has passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but it had not been signed by the Governor at the time of writing this report.

The State of Massachusetts has for a number of years appropriated \$5000 annually for the home teaching of the blind. This appropriation has been ostensibly under the control of the State board of education, but the work has really devolved upon the Superintendent of the Perkins institution. There are four blind persons—two men and two women—who go about the State, each having his own district, teaching reading and writing and some small forms of handicraft to such blind as they can find who are willing to be instructed in their homes.

A Commission with a membership of five was created by an act of the legislature in May 1904. This Commission does not concern itself with library work—it was created rather to look after the industrial training of the blind. The well-

known Perkins institution, partly under state patronage, has for years covered the educational field. These two firmly established and adequately supported agencies are thought by some to render direct educational work less necessary at the public libraries.

The library work for the blind in Massachusetts, aside from that in the public libraries in Boston and Lynn has hitherto been slight. Persons interested in the blind in several cities—as for instance Worcester, Brockton, and Fall River—are beginning to stir in the matter and there is a prospect of improvement in the near future.

At Lynn, the blind have received invitations to the regular entertainments of the Lynn educational society—a full course of two each month from October to June—to the Oratorio society's rehearsals, to the entertainments given by six women's clubs, to the lecturers of the Lynn historical society, and also to occasional lawn parties. The work which centers in the Public library, where there is a good collection of books well used, is fostered by a committee of the Historical society and by the Every Day club composed of young ladies connected with one of the churches. The Public library of Worcester has helped to work up an interest in the blind which has resulted in the recent establishment of a home.

In Michigan there is an employment institution for the blind which requires the management to maintain a lending library and reading circle. It had long been felt desirable that somewhere in the state there should be a liberal collection of books, periodicals and sheet music in various styles of embossed characters and a librarian charged with the duty of caring for and distributing the same, and competent to give supervision, and assistance to the home teaching and home study movement. Now that books for the blind can be sent through the mails free of cost, it is believed that the one fully equipped library of embossed reading matter at Saginaw

might well serve all the sightless readers within the boundaries of the state.

Mr A. M. Shotwell, Librarian of the Michigan employment institution for the blind writes:

"Our needs and those of our sightless adult readers appear to include more humorous works, more good current fiction, more reference works (to be consulted at the library), an accurately printed American Braille edition of the Bible, a good Bible concordance, an up-to-date Braille edition of some good weekly news summary (similar to the opening pages and the "current events" of "The Literary digest") the President's annual messages, the quadrennial national party platforms and letters of acceptance, etc., publications worthy to be re-read and studied, also leading papers pertaining to current work for the blind. The writer, having provided himself with the requisite embossing outfit, is doing what the means at his hands will permit in some of these directions, and has demonstrated the practicability of employing competent blind persons as printers.

"The libraries should cooperate with a state society or with some more general organization in the collection of statistics of the blind, and in placing necessary instruction, literary and industrial, within their reach, and in extending their opportunities for mental and manual employment, and should encourage the principal readers of embossed publications to master more than one of the current punctographic systems, as many interesting and valuable works have been embossed in each tactile system that have not been printed for their use in the other styles of raised print; and all should encourage the present movement, led by the American association of workers for the blind, looking toward the more general adoption of a uniform, legible, and completely grammatical system or method of writing or printing for the blind of America or of all English speaking countries; and the librarians and attendants in charge who are interested in the work for the blind, are urged, both individually and through local or state organizations, to affiliate themselves with the general body of American workers for the blind, whose biennial convention is to be held in Boston in the latter part of August next."

In California embossed books in four different types are sent from the State library to any blind resident and a collection of

from ten to twenty-five embossed books are loaned to any public library that can vouch for at least five readers. The first book was loaned June 13, 1905. There are now 222 blind borrowers scattered from one end to the other of the state.

In Rhode Island, the Public library of Providence was influential in having two state teachers of adult blind appointed a couple of years ago. In common with the experience of others, it is found that in addition to the teachers, visitors are needed. The library has no regular attendant for the blind but has been able to keep close to the work. As to the character of the books Mrs Mary E. S. Root, who is in immediate charge, writes that there is need of more delightful story books—not school books. One of the readers, a man of fifty, said that he did not want to be educated, only to forget. As a natural outgrowth there is a prospect for the opening of a shop where goods made by the blind can be placed on sale.

The New York state library has taken an active part in this work and has kept valuable records showing the character of the books called for as well as the number of volumes. This library has also had printed in New York point quite a number of books which otherwise would not be available. The library's methods of cataloging are worthy of careful consideration, as also the means employed to convey instruction to blind readers.

In New York City an organization was chartered by the Regents of the University in 1895 under the name of the New York free circulating library for the blind. In 1903 this was consolidated with the New York public library and has since been operated as a branch with quarters in one of the branch buildings. A teacher is employed who gives all her time to the work. Most of her instruction is in reading, a little in writing but none at all in arithmetic. The Library circulates books freely in the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and elsewhere on special request on the approval of the Chairman of the circulation committee. There has recently

been formed the New York association for promoting the interests of the adult blind. Of this Association Miss Winifred Holt, 44 East 78th st., is secretary.

In Illinois, writes Joseph H. Freeman, Superintendent of the Illinois school for the blind, they have applied to the General Assembly of Illinois for an appropriation of \$2,000 to purchase embossed books for a library to be used by readers in the state outside the school.

The blind collection at the Chicago public library numbers about 1,100 volumes, the circulation is annually in the neighborhood of 1,200 volumes, entirely within the city. The books are drawn chiefly through the delivery stations. Very few blind persons go to the main library. The Chicago woman's club has recently interested itself in the work and has employed an instructor.

In Delaware a bill providing for an appropriation of \$1,200 per year for "home teaching" of the blind throughout the State has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate and has gone to the Governor for his signature. There is no reason to suppose that he will veto it. Miss Anne M. Ward, a graduate of the Pennsylvania school for the blind, has been doing successful work as "home teacher" since July, 1906.

The Missouri school for the blind at St Louis has 2,500 books. These are circulated throughout the state. An association which will care for the interests of the blind was organized in February 1907 under the title of The Scotoic aid society.

Miss Hattie E. Stevenson, assistant Librarian of the Department of public instruction of Denver, reports that Colorado is the happy possessor of sixteen books in raised type. The General Assembly by a recent law has provided for a workshop which will soon be in working order in Denver.

In Virginia the State library has a collection of 500 embossed books, and the circulation is given as 500. As is often the case, books are sent beyond the territorial limits of the library.

In Indiana there is a collection of 440 embossed books at the State library. The circulation amounts to 300. Books are not allowed to go beyond the state boundaries.

The problem of serving the blind with reading matter is like every other social problem—far from its complete solution. One member of this Committee, Mr Asa Don Dickinson, now Librarian of the Leavenworth public library, and who unfortunately cannot be present at this meeting, wrote the chairman under date of May 6th as follows:

"We should have a central library, where can be found in one place all the books that have ever been printed in raised type. Any one of these books should be available to every blind person in the country, by means of free carriage through the United States mails. Under the present system (or want of system), each district has either no books at all, or an insufficient collection which has largely outlived its usefulness *in the immediate neighborhood*. If our central library can have books enough to send traveling libraries to any institutions throughout the country which may be willing to make themselves local centers, so much the better. But at any rate let us have a central collection which may be drawn upon by individuals in all parts of the country.

"It matters little whether this institution is evolved from the Library of Congress, from the Pennsylvania home teaching society, or from some other established institution; or whether an entirely new organization is created. It matters little whether it be established by public funds or by private benevolence. But an institution capable of doing this work we must have somehow, somewhere."

Mr Samuel H. Ranck, Librarian of the Public library at Grand Rapids, has taken an active interest in work for the blind, having succeeded during the past year in starting a blind department in the Grand Rapids library, and from him the Chairman has received a letter calling attention to a difficulty in the delivery of embossed books. "These are delivered by the library to the homes of the readers and called for at a stated time, unless they are returned beforehand. The matter of calling for and delivering the books in this way is believed to be desirable, owing

to the fact that, while books for the blind may be sent through the mails free, most of the packages are so large that they are not delivered by the carrier service of the post-office department. It would be just as easy, therefore, for blind readers to get the books at the Library as it would be at the post-office, and on this account the Library has undertaken the free delivery."

Mr Ranck has an able lieutenant in Miss Roberta A. Griffith, the leading blind citizen of Grand Rapids, a graduate of the Western Reserve university. Miss Griffith would urge "upon printers of embossed literature the desirability of complying, so far as possible, with the usual typographical practice, and rules of English composition in punctuation, syllabication and capitalization; for, whatever may be said in excuse of the now too general disregard of those rules, it must be remembered that the blind reader cannot ordinarily consult books of reference as the sighted reader can, and that he is entirely dependent upon his embossed books for his knowledge of what is correct in such matters."

Miss Griffith further "sees the need of a uniform system of printing and writing for the blind to take the place of the British and the American Braille and the New York point; and, without taking any action either in favor of, or against any of these systems, would recommend the appointment of a committee of the Library Association to confer with and keep in touch with the uniform type commission of the American association of workers for the blind, which has this subject under consideration;" and urges that "the American Library Association send a delegate, or delegates, to the convention of the American association of workers for the blind, to be held at Boston, August 27-30. This association is composed of both sighted and blind men and women who are devoted to the interests of the blind, and besides the report of the uniform type commission, other subjects in which librarians are directly interested may be considered."

Mr Bledsoe, Superintendent of the Maryland school for the blind, has also written us on this question of printing as follows:

"The greatest need in regard to printing for the blind is more uniformity. For the last thirty years a controversy on this subject has been carried on and has resulted in there being books in use printed in not less than five different kinds of type—Moon, Boston line letter, English Braille, American Braille, and New York point.

"The Moon type is very good for adults who find it impossible to use either of the other systems, and its maintenance is provided for by a society organized for that purpose, so it needs no further comment. The number of books printed in English Braille is so small that it calls for no serious consideration. The Boston line letter has been fast going out of use, having been kept up by the persistency of Mr Anagnos, who contended that it was just as easily read as either of the point systems, but the consensus of opinion is that this is not the case, and the fact that all who use the point systems almost invariably discard the line would seem to indicate that the point is the more practical. You are aware that the most of the books now in use in the various schools in this country are printed in the two point systems.

"The controversy and lack of unity in the last twenty years has been due to a difference of opinion as to the better of these.

"It would be well if we could do all of our printing in one or the other of these two systems, but there already exists so much literature printed in each that it would be almost impossible to induce those who control the matter of printing to discard either. In reality this is not at all necessary. What is needed, however, is cooperation between the various schools as to a thorough course of study outlined with texts and collateral reading based upon the books now printed in New York point and Braille in so far as this is possible, with recommendations for the printing of additional ones in these two systems, avoiding any duplications. These are the most practical and the one is not enough better than the other to authorize the discarding of either."

Miss Emma R. Neisser, of the Philadelphia free library, from which there has been such a large circulation of books, writes of some of the problems as follows:

"I believe there are many of the elderly blind who will never read any embossed type except the Moon. There are others who will not learn American Braille or New York point unless they first learn Moon.

"No one knows better than I do the limitations of the supply of books in Moon type. I know that librarians look with impatience and disdain over the meagre list of titles in the catalog of Moon's Society. In spite of all criticism I believe in Moon type for many blind persons, and have done what I could to help bring about a change for the better. The simplicity of the Moon characters and the ease with which even the elderly blind can learn it make it desirable for those who have lost their sight in adult life.

"Librarians will do well not to overlook the fact that it is from this large class that they will draw their readers. If they provide books for former pupils of schools only, they miss a large proportion of the blind population.

"It seems to me that the most important feature in the work of libraries for the blind is the establishment of 'home teaching.' Whether this shall be done under the care of the public library, or a state commission, or the state school, or by women's clubs, or other private enterprise, is immaterial; but unless this is done, no library of embossed books can hope to be of use to the greatest number of blind in its vicinity. Many of the blind may become readers if they have help and encouragement when first learning to read. I know of one library which has a collection of embossed books which are never used. The Librarian herself told me the books were never called for. Undoubtedly if the blind in that city were trained to use embossed type, the books would circulate as in other cities.

"I believe the home teacher should be a blind person or one with defective sight, and that the teacher should be chosen from among former pupils of the state school, thus cooperating with the library. Each large city should support at least one home teacher to visit the blind in the vicinity."

In view of the increasing activity in the work for the blind and the evident expansion of this work into fields not properly belonging to libraries, we recommend that a Committee of this Association be appointed to report on the progress of work for the blind strictly germane to libraries,



and to confer with such societies as shall foster the general interests of the blind.

N. D. C. HODGES  
BERNARD C. STEINER  
EMMA R. NEISSER,

Committee.

*Voted*, That the report be accepted and placed on file and under the Constitution, the recommendations of the committee be referred to the Council.

Miss Emma R. Neisser then read for Mr JOHN THOMSON of the Free library of Philadelphia, a paper on

#### LIBRARY WORK AMONGST THE BLIND

I desire to bring about an increased activity on the part of the free public libraries of the United States amongst the blind. There are more than 60,000 suffering from blindness in the Union of whom only about 18 per cent. (consisting of young people under 21 years of age) can be cared for by the magnificent schools in operation up and down throughout the states. Of the adults beyond the age limit for admittance into schools, it must be remembered that a very large proportion frequently become blind after the age of forty. I will not to-day discuss for one moment the relative values of the different kinds of embossed types. All are good; all are blessings to those physically and often mentally wrecked by the causes which have brought about their blindness. What I desire to advocate is that a well-planned scheme of cooperative work by the public libraries in each and every state of the Union be put into operation. Individual effort will do much; individual care by individual librarians will accomplish a great deal; but to get the best results, I think, the work should be undertaken on a systematic and cooperative method. It is most encouraging when you read the reports from different libraries to find how the work is gradually being appreciated and attended to on an enlarged scale.

If the A. L. A. admits that work amongst the blind is more than desirable, let me

submit a few suggestions. The first thing is to collect sufficient funds to purchase a large number of embossed books and in this way to provide reading and music of a widely varied character for the blind of each state. I ask for consideration of the desirability of establishing an executive committee to be appointed by the President and Council of the Association with a few instructions from the Council by way of indicating how the work can be most effectively undertaken. The end to be struggled for would seem to be to have one public library in each state selected as the state headquarters for the distribution of books for the blind.

Then to have a system of suggestions and rules prepared and sent to each library in which members of the A. L. A. are engaged as librarians. These rules and suggestions to include several vital points, such as:—

To obtain a complete list of the resident blind within the territorial scope of these libraries. These lists of the blind can be readily obtained if application is made to the mayor or chief officer of each town who, it may be taken for granted, will instruct the police to give this information to the libraries. After their names and addresses are so obtained, a circular to the blind would readily notify them of the library and experience has shown that the blind and their relations are more than ready to ask for the benefit of books. Each of the state depository libraries would be asked to keep in close communication with the Committee at the Headquarters of the A. L. A. so that the work may be systematized in an economical but far-reaching manner.

Important as the above suggestions as to the circulation of books must prove, it should be suggested to the committee that above all a method should be provided to procure for the blind a system of home teaching by teachers who can be sent to the homes of the blind. The above are no new suggestions to any of us and those who have tried some of the methods will probably be the first to advocate the adop-

tion of an improved system of work. One or two illustrations may possibly be permitted. It is well known that the Government has recently granted free postage of embossed books so that one of the most expensive parts of the work has been eliminated.

It is not so difficult to procure the aid of persons to print books as it might seem. At the Narragansett Pier meeting Miss Neisser and I advocated amongst some of the friends of the movement the printing of Lodge and Roosevelt's "Heroes of American history." The Free library of Philadelphia had only been able to print one of the four volumes which the embossed type demanded. Within a very few weeks \$195 were subscribed by three members of one family and the entire work has now been printed. Inasmuch as this was printed in Moon type, it was only required of the Home teaching society in Pennsylvania to pay one-half of the cost, the other half being paid for by the Brighton (England) society. Encouraged by this, I advocated at the Atlantic City meeting of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey associations the printing of more embossed books. Two ladies were so interested they subscribed through Miss Neisser a certain sum of money and are trying to raise the balance to enable us to print Shakespeare's "Macbeth." One half is now finished and when we get a little more money the remainder will be printed. Let the work amongst the blind be a unit, but let it have as many limbs as there are states and in each state as many feeders for the supply of books to our unfortunate blind brethren as there are public libraries.

If a committee is appointed which will undertake and resolve to carry into effect this great work, it will be inevitable that blind teachers must be provided and in hundreds of directions teach the blind how to read. Many of these unfortunate people learn to read in one, two and certainly in three lessons at their homes. The blind are a very nervous, sensitive class of people, but they can be reached effectively by teachers visiting them in their homes.

It is a great work and I want to see it grow and grow, and I shall be very grateful if the grant to me of these ten minutes shall result in the furtherance of the great end that I have in my mind.

Lastly, I think it may be well that the A. L. A. committee above suggested should take charge of all directions and instructions to be given with a view to procure from the legislatures of each state an appropriation to carry on this work in its own state, and to the end that this work may be done in an orderly fashion it may possibly seem good to the Council to appoint one of the librarians in each state as a kind of registrar to take charge of the introduction and, if possible, the passage of an appropriation for the development of the work for the blind. In Pennsylvania, the free library has worked in cooperation with the Home teaching society for the blind and for the years 1905-1906 the state appropriated the sum of \$2000 for the development of the home teaching work. The legislature just adjourned has appropriated the sum of \$4000 for this purpose and the bill only awaits the signature of the governor to become law. I commend these suggestions to the best consideration of the Association and hope that a successful result will be obtained.

Mr J. C. M. HANSON next read the

#### REPORT OF THE CATALOG RULES COMMITTEE

The Catalog rules committee has, since its organization in 1901, reported to the Publishing board. At the meeting of the Council held in connection with the last annual conference of the Association at Narragansett Pier, it was constituted a special committee of the A. L. A. and accordingly begs to submit, herewith, its first regular report to the Association.

It will be recalled that the Library of Congress undertook to print and distribute, a revision of the old A. L. A. rules which had been prepared by this Committee in the form of an advance edition or draft code. This was in July, 1902.

The issue of this advance edition served two purposes; first, to elicit criticism and suggestions; secondly, to serve as a temporary guide for the many libraries which had begun to use the printed cards of the Library of Congress, and, therefore, required some general directions to the rules which governed in the preparation of these cards.

The criticisms and comments on the advance edition were carefully summarized and submitted for discussion at three meetings of the Committee during 1903 and 1904. The revision was thus advanced sufficiently to warrant the hope that a first edition might go to press during the winter of 1904-1905. In October, 1904, however, came the proposal from the Library Association looking to the preparation of a joint code of cataloging rules. The acceptance of this invitation by the Executive board gave a new aspect to the entire question of revision and all thought of printing was necessarily set aside pending the negotiations which were to follow.

It is the purpose of this report to give a brief survey of the consultations between the two committees and their results.

It may as well be stated at the outset that there have been so far, no opportunities for joint meetings. All negotiation has been carried on by means of correspondence. It should also be noted that the members of the American committee were widely separated and found it difficult to meet more than once a year and that, usually, in connection with some conference where, frequently, other committees and meetings demanded a share of their time and attention. Under these circumstances, we feel that the progress made has been all that could be expected.

The fact that the American draft code was issued already in July, 1902, and the corresponding British code in September, 1904, has greatly facilitated a general agreement. Thirteen copies of the former code had been sent to England in 1902 for the use of the British committee. In formulating its own draft code, the latter

was, therefore, in a position to decide on a certain number of rules which might be accepted without further question.

It became apparent, also, at the meeting of your Committee in March, 1905, when for the first time, an opportunity for comparison of the two codes was offered, that there were fewer points of serious disagreement than might have been expected. With a ready willingness on both sides to make reasonable concessions, it was felt, even then, that prospects for a final agreement were promising. These hopes have, so far, been fully borne out by the results of the correspondence which has passed between the two committees.

Immediately after the above mentioned meeting, a full report of the proceedings was addressed to the Hon. chairman of the Catalog rules revision committee of the Library Association. It contained, mainly, decisions and suggestions on the 54 rules which composed the British draft code. In connection with it, a copy of the American advance edition with annotations, embodying all changes, additions and modifications adopted subsequent to March 1903, was prepared and forwarded for the use of the British committee. The hope was expressed that when the time should be ripe for it, a conference might be arranged between authorized representatives of the two committees for the purpose of considering all details which could not well be settled by correspondence.

The report of the 1905 meeting and likewise of the meeting of 1906, at Narragansett Pier, together with the considerations on these reports by the British committee, have now resulted in the following mutual concessions which will give a fair idea of the points of difference which, at the outset, separated the two committees.

Of the 54 rules constituting the British draft code, it was found that with slight modifications or additions your committee could subscribe to 29 without further question. In the remaining rules, there were some points of difference of which the following may be noted:

1 (Brit. 4) **Compound surnames in English.** In the course of the correspondence, it had been suggested by the British committee that English names connected with a hyphen should be entered under the first name so connected. The American committee deemed this too radical a departure from the old rule of entering under the second name, but would permit the exception when it was clearly the author's own usage and preference to enter under his first name. The Hon. secretary of the British committee has expressed his approval of this compromise, although the final decision of his committee has not reached us. As it stands, the rule is in agreement with the original wording of the British draft code.

2 (Brit. 12) **Joint authors.** Of two or more joint authors, the British rule would give two names in the heading; if more than two, the first only, followed by the phrase "and others." The American rule, as given in the advance edition and still adhered to, calls for the first author only in the heading, the second and following authors to be given in the title or in a note. Added entries are, of course, to be made in all cases under the second and following authors. The compromise offered by your committee calls for the name of the first author only in the heading, a note, however, to state that in a written card catalog, or in a printed catalog in book form, both of two names may be given in the heading in the form, Doe, John *and* Roe, Richard, the second name being disregarded in the arrangement. When there are more than two joint authors, the form prescribed in the British rule is to be given, viz., Doe, John, *and others*. According to a letter of the Hon. secretary of the British committee, the alternative suggested by the note has seemed to be satisfactory. We have, however, as yet received no notice of definite action by their committee on this point.

3 (Brit. 14) **Commentaries.** The British code called for entry under author of the text in all cases, provided the text was given with a commentary. Your Committee felt that an opportunity for an occasional exception should be provided and suggested the addition of the following note: "It may occasionally be preferable to enter under the author of the commentary when (a) the typographical disposition of the text clearly indicates its intended secondary position, *e.g.*, in small type at the foot of the page, in parentheses, etc., to elucidate the commentary; (b) when the text is printed in a fragmentary

manner or is distributed through the commentary in such manner that it cannot be readily distinguished from it." The rule is, therefore, practically that of the British code, the note, an adaptation from the American code.

4 (Brit. 15) **Dissertations.** There was some difficulty in coming to an agreement here. The British committee presented a rule which was in accord with that of "Cutter." The latter had again been favored by a minority of the American Committee (Cutter being one of them). It called for entry under the respondent in the case of earlier dissertations provided the respondent was known to be the author. The present rule, which has finally prevailed in both committees, reads: "Enter dissertations published before 1800 under the *praeses* as *praeses*. Make an added entry under the respondent when he is known to be the author. The word '*praeses*' or '*respondent*' is to be added in the heading. Treat in the same way also the dissertations of certain universities at which the old custom continued after 1800 (*e.g.*, the Swedish and Finnish, and of the German, particularly Tübingen).

Enter dissertations after 1800 under the author, excepting those of the universities where the old custom was kept up after 1800 (*e.g.*, the Swedish and Finnish, and of the German, particularly Tübingen).

If two respondents are named without a *praeses*, and without designating the author, make entry under the first and added entry under the second. (Eclectic 169-174)."

5 (Brit. 17) **Government departments and offices.** The British committee proposed to enter all departments of the British government under their names, others under the name of the country, town, etc. This exception was objected to by your Committee on the ground that the code was to serve for more than one country and it might be well to avoid, as far as possible, any rule or exception to a rule which had reference to only one of these countries. The point was conceded by the British committee and the departments of the British government are to be entered like those of other countries.

6 (Brit. 18) **Societies.** Two main rules were suggested by the British draft code. The first called for entry of political, social, religious or other bodies of a non-local character under the first word other than an article, of the name of the body. The second would enter local societies, library schools, universities, institutions, etc., under the name of the place con-

cerned. The American code has provided one section of rules (71-80) for societies and associations, with entry under the name as the main rule, specifying certain exceptions. Another section of rules (81-98) provides for institutions or establishments which are intimately connected with a particular locality by buildings, plants, grounds, etc., prescribing entry under the place as a general rule, with specified exceptions. Still a third section (99-110) provides for miscellaneous bodies which cannot well be classed either with government departments, societies or institutions. In the British draft code, nine rules were allotted to corporate entry as against 29 in the A. L. A. advance edition. In the rules as they now stand, 52 out of 167 rules are devoted to this troublesome question with good prospects for an increase in subsequent editions.

7 (Brit. 26) **Pseudonyms.** There is no appreciable difference between the two committees on this point. Both would enter under the real names whenever they can be ascertained, otherwise under the pseudonyms. The American committee, however, has provided opportunity for an occasional exception by adding a note which states that a popular library may enter under the pseudonym when this is decidedly better known than the real name. It is not expected that the Library Association will object to the alternative here offered.

8 (Brit. 27) **Initials, asterisks, etc.** A somewhat radical change from the American rule is here proposed. The British rule reads: "Initials, asterisks, or other typographical devices denoting authorship, but unidentified, are not to be adopted as headings, but the book treated as anonymous." To this we have agreed but have added the stipulation (since accepted by the British committee) that added entry be made under the initial, asterisk, or other typographical device used to denote authorship.

9 (Brit. 30) **Anonymous titles.** It was agreed from the outset that anonymous works, the authors of which are not known, should be entered under the first word of the title other than an article. There are, however, some details on which we have differed. For instance, the British code contains a rule (30) which reads: "When the title of an anonymous work begins with a word indicating numerical sequence, or defining its relation to another work, the work is to be entered under the heading of the principal work. A first word reference to be made in all cases."

The American committee would treat these works like anonymous books and make a main entry under the first word, with added entry under the title of the original work. This is one of the few points on which we have as yet failed to reach an agreement. Similarly their rule 31 states: "When the first word of the title of an anonymous work may be spelled in more than one way, choose one spelling, and refer from the other." Here again your committee has preferred to enter according to the spelling of the title-page, bringing the various editions together in one place by means of references or added entries. Agreed to by the British committee.

10 (Brit. 32) **Periodical publications.** According to the British code, periodical publications other than those of societies, are to be considered as anonymous works and are to be entered accordingly, the last title to be used as the main heading. Your committee has suggested that added entries be made for editors. The A. L. A. rules also attempt to differentiate between the periodicals published by societies and institutions, and those that are not published by or under the auspices of any named body.

11 (Brit. 34) **Place names.** To the British rule which calls for entry under the English form of the name, your committee has suggested the following addition: When both the English and the vernacular form are used in English works, the vernacular is to be preferred. The suggestion has been accepted. The British committee would decide doubtful cases by reference to Longman's Gazetteer of the world. The American committee prefers the Decisions of the Board on geographic names, the Century dictionary of names and the Century atlas. We also propose to add references to the gazetteers of Lippincott and Longman.

12 (Brit. 48) **Size.** The British committee would give size either in inches or centimeters. The omission of "inches" has been suggested and agreed to.

13 (Brit. 51) **Arrangement.** The only difference here is that the British rule calls for arrangement of names of places before similar names of persons, these in turn to be followed by similar first words of titles. Your Committee has adhered to the order given in Cutter, viz., (1) persons; (2) places; (3) title.

14 (Brit. 53) **Capitals.** In the British code is found a brief but comprehensive statement to which we have, in the main, agreed. In the copies of the rules submitted with the present report, we have

offered, as an alternative, a fuller and more explicit rule. The latter is intended for the convenience of those libraries which prefer to have access to a more detailed statement than the one offered in the main rule. This alternative has not, as yet, been submitted to the British committee.

15 (Brit. 54) **Figures.** According to British rule 54, roman numerals are to be used after names of sovereigns. In other cases, arabic figures are to be used. Your Committee has not felt that arabic figures could be substituted for roman in *all* cases, while favoring the preference of arabic, would retain roman in the following instances: (a) when given in the main title; (b) in paging, when preliminary pages are distinguished from the rest of the volume by roman figures; (c) in contents, when roman figures have been used for the specific purpose of distinguishing between parts, *abtheilungen*, *lieferungen*, etc. These suggestions have also been accepted.

As exhibits to accompany this report, we beg to submit the following:

1 A copy of the rules proper as revised to date and printed by the Library of Congress "as manuscript."<sup>a</sup>

2 A typewritten copy of the Introduction to the rules and of the Appendices, covering Abbreviations, Definitions and the Transliteration rules.<sup>a</sup>

3 A copy of the sample cards which it is proposed to print as an appendix.<sup>a</sup>

We regret that time and expense did not permit the printing also of the Introduction, Appendices and Index, and the final preparation of copies in pamphlet form. It is our belief, however, that the printed proofs which are submitted herewith for your inspection, will prove more convenient and serviceable than a corresponding number of typewritten copies.

These exhibits, therefore, represent the rules as revised to date.

It is estimated that the material in hand, together with the Index, will make a volume of about 116 pages. In order that the rules may be printed on cards, if there should be demand for them in that form,

the Committee recommends that a size of page be adopted sufficiently narrow to permit reprinting on cards without a resetting.

The British committee had reported at Bradford in September, 1906, that their own draft code and that of the American committee were now practically identical. They also recommended that a joint code be now printed and that they be authorized to proceed with and conclude such further negotiations as may be necessary for the issue of a joint code. The report and recommendation were agreed to by the Library Association.

In answer to a letter addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the British committee after the meeting at Narragansett Pier in June, 1906, which letter contained an account of the latest decisions of the American committee and certain suggestions on the form in which the joint code might be published, a communication was received, dated Sept. 19th, 1906, from which the following is quoted:

"My committee are of opinion that the two draft codes (English and American) have reached such a stage of agreement as to warrant printing as soon as possible, and we have been authorized by the Library Association to proceed with and conclude such further negotiations with your Committee as may be necessary for the issue of a joint code.

"We think that the code should be printed in two editions (English and American) but that the editions should as far as possible be identical in arrangement and wording, and that where a divergence of opinion between the two committees exists with respect to a particular rule that such difference of opinion should be explained either in a note appended to the rule in question or by the printing of the two rules side by side, showing which is which. I trust however that we shall be able to arrive at practical unanimity on most points so that the cases where divergence of opinion exists may be very few indeed."

<sup>a</sup> These will be printed with the Rules.

In view of this action by the Library

Association, we would recommend that the American Library Association authorize the printing of a first American edition of the joint code, as revised to date, and further, that your Committee be instructed to proceed with such further negotiations as may be necessary in order to dispose of questions of detail, which are likely to come up in connection with the printing of the two editions, the American and the English. It is our belief that the action here recommended will mean the practical consummation of the agreement on a common code of cataloging rules for the great majority of American and English libraries.

To your Committee such action would be particularly gratifying as we feel that much of the success which has attended the negotiations is due to the open and generous manner in which we have throughout been met by the British committee.

Our appreciation of this friendly spirit can best be shown by action which will lead to a speedy and successful consummation of their labors.

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Committee on Catalog rules is certainly a most important one. It is an agreeable surprise to some of us and we thank them for the care which they have given to the matter. The report will be referred to the Catalog section for consideration and discussion.

Mr LEGLER: Mr President, I move that this report of the Committee on Catalog rules be formally received, that the recommendations made therein be referred to the Council and that the American Library Association here records its appreciation of the cooperation of the British library association which has made possible so great a measure of unity in catalog rules.

Seconded by Mr Bowker and *Carried*.

The first general session adjourned at 12.55 p. m.

## SECOND SESSION

(Ball Room, Battery Park Hotel, Saturday Morning, May 25th.)

The PRESIDENT called the second general session to order at 9.30 o'clock, and

the Association at once passed to the consideration of reports of committees.

Mr D. P. COREY presented the

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEAD-QUARTERS

Boston, May 1, 1907.

To the American Library Association.

Since making its first report, your Committee has kept closely in touch with the work at the Headquarters in Boston and finds that it is constantly developing in usefulness as librarians get to understand that there is a place where they have a right to ask for information and advice. Two features of the work are most in evidence:

- 1 The systematizing of the business—that which may be called the sales department, of the Publishing board as distinguished from the editorial work which is, perhaps, the proper function of the board.

- 2 The beginning of a collection of plans of library buildings, which has required much hard work, time, and correspondence in inducing librarians and architects to furnish full floor plans, and in devising methods of mounting, arranging, and indexing such plans when obtained.

Of other departments of work, the labor of the making up and issue of the Bulletin has fallen mainly upon the Headquarters' force; and the number of callers and the amount of correspondence requiring attention have steadily increased.

Much might sincerely be said of the zeal, intelligent work, and constant application of Mr E. C. Hovey. If the Committee has any criticism to make in this connection, it is that he works too hard, night as well as day, for his health. In the settlement of the problems which have required attention in the establishment of the Headquarters and in the carrying out of details for the advancement of the work and the interests of the Association he has been indefatigable.

The members of your Committee sincerely hope that the Association will be able to continue and enlarge the work so

well begun, and that Mr Hovey can be retained in its charge.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. COREY

CHARLES C. SOULE

GARDNER M. JONES,

Committee on Headquarters.

The PRESIDENT: According to custom, the Report will be accepted and referred to the Council for consideration.

Mr W. C. LANE read the

#### REPORT OF THE A. L. A. PUBLISHING BOARD

The figures and statistics in the following report refer to the calendar year 1906, but in other respects, it chronicles the work of the Board for the library year 1906-07. At the annual meeting of the Association in 1906, the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Board, whose terms expired, were reappointed for the prescribed term of three years. At the same time Miss Electra C. Doren, who had been appointed a member of the Board a year previous, was compelled to resign on account of ill health. In accepting her resignation, the other members of the Board desire to express their sense of the value of Miss Doren's services and regret that she could not continue to work with them, especially in the subjects in which she had taken a particular interest—namely, in the new edition of the "List of subject headings," the index to library periodicals, and the project of issuing simplified catalog cards for smaller libraries. In her place, the Executive board appointed Mr H. C. Wellman, Librarian of the City library of Springfield, who had already served one term as a member of the Board.

Meetings of the Board were held at Narragansett Pier in July, at the A. L. A. headquarters in Boston in October, and again in Boston early in May. The original intention of the Board had been to hold its regular meetings with the Association in the summer, at Lake Placid in the autumn and at Atlantic City in the spring, but it is likely to be more and more con-

venient to hold the meetings of the Board in Boston, where the records and papers of the Board are at hand and where the undivided attention of its members can be given to business.

Tables in regard to the financial operations of the year, including the receipts and expenses on account of each of the Board's publications, are given in the usual form at the close of this report. It will be noticed that the figures on the whole are not very different from those of the previous year. We began the year with a balance on hand about \$500 less than on January 1st, 1905, but we drew \$500 more from the income of the endowment fund, so that our resources for the year were practically the same. Receipts from the sale of publications, and expenses on account of cost of manufacture, both increased a little, and in not far from the same proportion, leaving a net balance of profit on this account of \$486.23, in place of \$500.88. A more careful inspection, however, of the table showing losses and gains on each separate publication, discovers that the largest loss was on the "A. L. A. book-list"—\$1056.41 in place of \$411.80 in 1905; also that \$200 was spent toward the second edition of the "List of subject headings," to counterbalance which there can, of course, be as yet no corresponding gain. If these two items were thrown out from the figures of both years, we should have a net profit in 1905 of \$1002.68, and in 1906, \$1742.63. It should be noted, however, that during 1905, as recorded in last year's report, the valuation of the stock on hand increased by almost \$2,000, but that during 1906, there has been a diminution in the stock on hand of about the same amount. The Board is content to show no larger profit than this on its publications at the end of the year, although the ordinary publishing house would be unable to continue business on the same basis, for the commercial house would have to provide from the balance as given in this table all expenses for rent, salaries, and other items of administration. The Pub-



lishing board, having an endowment, can afford to issue publications which other publishers could not venture upon, and it is precisely such undertakings that lie most directly within its scope.

The chief event of the year has been the removal of the Board from the rooms it had so long occupied in the Boston Athenæum to the new A. L. A. headquarters at 34 Newbury street. The new rooms assigned to the use of the Board here have proved reasonably convenient, and the neighborhood is a pleasant one, the Public library and the libraries of the Institute of technology and of the American academy of arts and sciences being easily accessible. At present the Board contributes \$500 toward the rent of the house, but it is hoped that, with the permanent establishment of Headquarters, it may be possible to relieve the Board of this charge. At the Boston Athenæum it had the good fortune to be charged an almost nominal rent.

The Board has been glad to take advantage of Mr Hovey's business capacity and ready willingness to be of service, and has profited thereby in many ways. It is possible that too much of the daily business of the Board, in filling orders and replying to letters, has fallen to Mr Hovey's willing hands—more, in fact, than the Board has a right to demand or than it expected to receive. When it becomes necessary, as it probably will in the autumn, to employ a second assistant or stenographer, it may be best for the Secretary of the Board to take up again the ordinary correspondence with customers, leaving only the care of the accounts and the larger dealings with business firms in Mr Hovey's hands.

**A. L. A. portrait index.** The completion of the Index was mentioned in last year's report. The volume was not ready for final distribution until December. Instead of a volume of 1200 pages, as anticipated, it makes 1700 pages, yet the Government printing office has been able to keep the price down to the very moderate sum of \$3.00. On the accounts of the Publishing

board, the total cost of preparation stands at \$4,860, a sum far in excess of what was anticipated when the work began, but not to be considered unreasonable when one examines the extent of the work actually done. Extra copies of the "List of books indexed" have been printed by the Library of Congress, and can be had by those who want them as a separate record. Up to April 1st, the Superintendent of documents reported the sale of 640 copies. The Board has tried to find some means by which to encourage the sale of the book abroad, where it ought to be of almost as much use as in this country, and it is hoped that some of the more enterprising book agents in England, France, and Germany will keep the work on sale and bring it to the attention of their customers. The one disadvantage of publication by the Government is that the sale is necessarily somewhat hampered by the rules which obtain in regard to payment in advance and by the fact that the Government does not place copies of its publications "on sale" with booksellers.

**A. L. A. booklist.** At the Narragansett Pier meeting, it was arranged that Miss K. I. MacDonald, of the Wisconsin Free library commission, should assume the editorship of the Booklist. As first proposed, it was intended that Miss MacDonald should come to Boston and that her whole time should be given to the Publishing board, so that her services might be given to other matters, as well as to the Booklist, but it was subsequently agreed that Miss MacDonald should remain in Madison, should give half her time to the Wisconsin commission, receiving half salary only from the Publishing board, and that the editorial work on the Booklist should be conducted in Madison. One advantage of this arrangement, in addition to the saving of expense, was that Miss MacDonald had already established useful relations with the professors in the State university of Wisconsin which would enable her to secure valuable help in the selection and annotation of titles. This expected advantage has been realized, but it is evident

that more than half of one person's time is needed for editorial work, and the Board hopes to be able to make some more favorable division of time in the future. Some changes in the typographical form and in the character and scope of the notes was made when Miss MacDonald assumed the editorship of the Booklist, with the object of making the titles and the items in regard to classification, shelfmarks, etc., useful to the small libraries in the same way in which the simplified catalog cards would have been, which the Ohio librarians have so strongly advocated. Titles of books published in new, improved, or cheaper editions have also been included, and with the December number was issued an index to the first two years of the publication. Separate lists on special subjects of current interest have been included in almost every number, in the hope that, separately printed, they would be useful to libraries for distribution. Shorter lists, of 20 or 30 titles each, have also been tried, such as could be printed separately on title cards to be used as book-marks. It must be confessed, however, that the demand for these separate lists and for the book-marks has not been so great as to encourage the Board in offering them frequently.

On the establishment of a "Bulletin," to serve as an official medium of information for all members of the A. L. A., the Booklist was able, beginning January, 1907, to cut out its official section and to restrict itself again to the specific purpose for which it was originally established. So long as the Association had no other means of reaching its members, the Publishing board was glad to include in the Booklist communications from the Executive board and from the committees of the Association, and any other official information of interest; and having included this kind of material in the Booklist, the Board was glad to accede to the request of the Executive board that copies should be sent free to all members of the Association on a small payment by the Association, covering simply the additional expense for wrap-

ping and postage. The Board strongly favored, however, the idea of issuing a separate bulletin for the purpose of keeping members of the Association informed in regard to the proceedings and the work of the Association and its committees—a bulletin which should reach all members as a natural result of their membership; and when this bulletin was established, it was clear to the Board that the Booklist, being now restricted to its original purpose, should not be distributed gratis, but should be placed on precisely the same basis as all the other publications of the Board. The Board thinks it right to draw upon the income of the Carnegie fund for all editorial expenses connected with the Booklist, but it believes that the bare cost of manufacture and distribution should be covered by sales. It sells the Booklist at as low a price as possible in quantities to Commissions for free distribution to libraries, but it must depend upon a fair number of annual individual subscriptions to cover the incidental expenses connected with its publication. Even so, it was found necessary to increase the price to Commissions from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per 100 copies, and to increase the annual subscription from 50 cents to \$1.00. With the issue of the January number—which was, however, sent free to all members of the A. L. A., as the previous numbers had been—it announced its purpose to discontinue distribution on this basis, and to require payment of a subscription, except from libraries which were members of the A. L. A. It was thought right to make this exception, because libraries pay a membership fee of \$5.00, instead of \$2.00, and ought naturally to be entitled to some additional advantage.

The Board is sorry to find that the Executive board still considers that the free distribution, at least to members who specifically request it, is desirable. A study of the subscription list shows that many libraries which subscribed this year for the first time, or which received the Booklist this year as members of the A. L. A., would have continued to receive it

through members of their staff, if the free distribution to members had continued. The Booklist is simply a tool of trade, like any other publication, and it is not asking too much of libraries that they should pay for it, instead of receiving it gratis through members of their staff who have paid for it in connection with their membership fees. Members of the Association, moreover, who need the Booklist in connection with their work should have it provided for them by their libraries, and not be compelled to provide it themselves. If the free distribution were to be continued or resumed, it is evident that our subscription list would fall off so considerably that we should again have to raise the price of the Booklist as sold to Commissions, a measure which the Board would extremely regret.

**List of subject headings.** A detailed report as to the best method of procedure in compiling the new edition of the much-used "List of subject headings" was made by Miss Doren at the Narragansett Pier meeting, and the work, which has since been begun, has been pursued on the lines laid down by Miss Doren. The services of Miss Esther Crawford, formerly of the University of Nebraska library have been secured as editor, and an advisory committee has been appointed by the Board, with whom Miss Crawford may consult, consisting of Messrs G. M. Jones of Salem (chairman), J. C. M. Hanson of the library of Congress, A. G. S. Josephson of the John Crerar library, Misses Alice B. Kroeger of Drexel institute, Linda M. Clatworthy of Dayton, Margaret Mann of Pittsburgh, Harriet B. Prescott of Columbia university, Nina E. Browne, secretary of the Publishing board. Miss Crawford began work on November 1st, 1906, and was advised to visit the more important libraries on her way East so as to collect as much useful information in the way of new headings, approved practices, and exact definitions as possible for use in compiling the new edition. She has found so much of this nature that is important, and so many new questions have opened up before her as to the scope and character of the new

edition, that she is still gathering her material and has not yet reached Boston. It was at first expected that the new edition might be ready for the press early next fall, but the progress of the work so far shows that the proper preparation of the work will take much longer than was anticipated, and that we are not likely to see the new edition completed before next spring. The nature of the problems which Miss Crawford is studying may be seen from the list of questions proposed in the "Library Journal" for December,—a list which has called forth a large number of interesting comments and answers. It must not be supposed, however, that because a new subject or a modification of the present system was proposed in this list, that it will necessarily be adopted in the new edition.

**A. L. A. catalog rules.** At the Narragansett Pier meeting, the chairman of the Committee on Catalog rules—a committee appointed in the first place by the Publishing board several years ago, with a view primarily to recommending the best form of work for printed catalog cards—reported to the Publishing board that its material was now in such shape that it would be ready to print by November 1st. Later in the autumn, the Publishing board was asked whether it proposed to print the rules itself or to ask the Library of Congress to print them. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that the rules would properly be issued by the Association, rather than by the Library of Congress, and that, on the whole, this arrangement would be to the advantage of librarians, inasmuch as the Library of Congress could not be expected to distribute them gratis. A study of the best form of page and typographical arrangement was then entered upon, and results satisfactory to the Catalog rules committee were obtained. Objection was made by some members of the Committee that, the Committee having at the last meeting of the Association been made a committee of the Association, the question of printing should have been referred first to the Executive board, that

the Executive board might have acted upon the question whether the Library of Congress or the Publishing board should have been asked to print. The Publishing board is entirely ready to abide by the decision of the Association in this matter; but it feels that the code of catalog rules, like the "List of subject headings," is so essentially a library tool, and so distinctly the work of a committee of the Association, that it is altogether appropriate that it should be published by the Association itself. Fortunately, the question can be left open without delaying the progress of the work, for the Library of Congress, which has already printed one preliminary edition of the rules for the sake of advancing the work, has offered to put the rules as they stand into print, without prejudice to the question of final publication. This generous action on the part of the Library of Congress makes it possible to give a final revision to the rules under the most favorable circumstances, and will make the eventual publication of them far easier and less expensive. It is expected that proofs in this form will be on hand for criticism and discussion at the Asheville meeting.

**Tracts and handbooks.** No new publication in this series has been issued during the period covered by this report. Expenses on this account have been limited to reprinting Tracts 1, 4, 6 and 7, and sales have amounted to \$227.86, covering 3673 copies. The Board was prepared to issue in this series the collection of library building plans compiled by Mr Eastman, of the New York state library, but that Library decided itself to issue the paper as one of its Bulletins, and the Publishing board has been glad to take a number of copies and include them with its own publications on sale.

The next Tract or Handbook to be issued will be one on the management of traveling libraries, by Miss Edna D. Bullock, and the manuscript of another, on library buildings, by Miss Cornelia Marvin is already in our hands. A Tract on library training, prepared by Miss Mary W.

Plummer, will be presented at the present meeting as the report of the Committee on Library training. Other tracts on library by-laws, library advertising, and on book-buying are contemplated.

**Children's list.** As reported last year the Children's list, which was to be prepared under the supervision of Miss Annie C. Moore, was given up on account of her illness, and it was thought best to enter into an agreement with the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to establish a similar list which was in progress for that library, edited by Miss Olcott. It was hoped that the list would be ready to be printed before summer, but we are recently informed that it must be postponed until autumn.

Mr A. H. Hopkins, of the Carnegie library, kindly allowed the Publishing board to take 500 copies of another list which had been lately prepared for that library, of somewhat similar scope, which the Board has issued under the title, "Children's reading; a catalog compiled for the home libraries and reading clubs conducted by the Children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh." This list will serve a useful purpose until the new Children's list shall be ready for use.

**Foreign lists.** The Board intends to issue, from time to time, brief lists of foreign books, which may be helpful to librarians in communities where there is a considerable foreign population. The manuscript for a German list is already in press. A brief Italian list has been prepared by Miss Mary Morison, of Boston, and will be ready in the autumn. A list of French books has been prepared by Professor J. C. Bracq, of Vassar college, and after having been submitted to the Board, has been returned for a little further revision. Other lists in more unusual languages will follow.

**Guide to nature study.** A guide to nature study, compiled by Mrs Professor Yerkes under the direction of Professor Bigelow, of Columbia university, has been offered to the Board and will probably be accepted for publication. It is admirably adapted for the use both of library assistants and of teachers in referring children to the

best common sources in regard to animals and plants and other objects of nature study.

**Index to economic material.** The Index to economic material contained in state documents, prepared by Miss A. R. Hasse for the Carnegie institution, was offered to this Board for publication and had been accepted, the Board considering that it would be of real value to libraries. At the last moment, however, the Carnegie institution decided that it would prefer to publish the indexes itself, and this Board, of course, relinquished its plans.

In closing this report the Board would express their desire to keep in touch as closely as possible with the needs and desires of the members of the Association and of libraries in general, and so to make their work as generally useful as possible. This result will be best

attained if members will enter into direct correspondence with the members of the Board and will give them the benefit of their advice and suggestion as to the best directions in which the work of the Board may develop and as to the best ways of conducting it. If the methods adopted by the Board are open to criticism (and what measures are not subject to improvement?) the Board will gladly hear directly from those who disapprove the measures it may have taken and will thus be greatly helped in the work committed to it. On the other hand it ought not to be necessary to add that it is a distinct encouragement to hear also from those who approve and value one's work, yet this is a point that is often forgotten or overlooked, so that workers in any cause often miss thereby a really helpful kind of support.

#### Financial Statements

Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1906.....	\$ 880.11	
Bills receivable Jan. 1, 1906.....	1351.54	
	<u>\$2231.65</u>	
Bills payable Jan. 1, 1906.....		1463.59
Available Jan. 1, 1906.....		<u>\$ 768.06</u>
Receipts during year 1906:—		
From Endowment fund trustees.....	\$3500.00	
From interest at bank.....	15.14	3515.14
Total resources .....		<u>\$4283.20</u>
Sale of publications.....	\$6007.34	
Cost of publications.....	<u>\$5521.11</u>	
Profit .....	\$486.23	486.23
		<u>\$4769.43</u>
<b>General expenses</b>		
Addressograph .....	\$ 181.46	
Advertising .....	110.00	
Express .....	12.28	
Insurance .....	34.71	
Moving .....	46.55	
Postage .....	116.86	
Post office.....	28.00	
Rent .....	215.00	
Salaries .....	2088.20	
Stamp account.....	2.03	
Stationery .....	30.26	
Sundries .....	31.53	
Telephone .....	31.15	
Travel .....	365.47	
Type-writer .....	45.00	
	<u>\$3338.50</u>	
Paid on account Portrait index.....	605.03	
Paid on account Catalog rules committee.....	9.90	
Balance .....		<u>\$3953.43</u>
		816.00

Brought forward.....	\$816.00
Bills payable Jan. 1, 1907.....	733.41
	<hr/>
	\$1549.41
Bills receivable Jan. 1, 1907.....	812.19
	<hr/>
Cash balance Jan. 1, 1907.....	\$ 737.22

Tabulated statement showing losses and gains for year ending Dec. 31, 1906:—

	Cost	Sales	Loss	Gain
A. L. A. book-list.....	\$2104.60	\$1048.19	\$1056.41	
Special lists reprinted—				
Arbor day list.....	19.75	5.03	14.72	
Bird list .....	20.50	11.15	9.35	
Christmas bulletin .....		10.88		10.88
List of gift books.....	6.25	11.25		5.00
Political economy .....		.20		.20
A. L. A. index.....	420.36	420.36		
A. L. A. proceedings.....	9.38	113.55		104.17
Bibliographical cards .....		2.44		2.44
Boys and girls.....	39.43	93.77		54.34
English history .....	114.40	36.75	77.65	
Fine arts .....	.20		.20	
French fiction .....		5.07		5.07
Girls and women.....	38.53	38.05	.48	
Kroeger's guide .....	94.15	334.59		240.44
Larned .....	195.99	294.37		98.38
Library tracts .....	78.61	227.86		149.25
Mass. public documents.....		3.20		3.20
Miscellaneous cards .....	765.44	776.87		11.43
Periodical cards .....	1021.56	1503.52		486.96
Reading for the young.....		21.15		21.15
Reprints (1905) .....	239.93	133.43	106.50	
Reprints (1906) .....		3.65		3.65
Subject headings (2) .....	135.78	879.70		743.92
Subject headings (3) .....	200.00		200.00	
Sundries .....		5.76		5.76
Wells' supplement .....	16.25	21.55		5.30
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5521.11	6007.34	1465.31	1951.54
Balance gain .....	486.23		486.23	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$6007.34	\$6007.34	\$1951.54	\$1951.54

The report was received and placed on file.

The Chair announced in behalf of the Executive board, the appointment of a Committee on Resolutions consisting of Messrs W. C. Lane, C. H. Gould and Miss Mary E. Hazeltine, to which Committee, under section 8 of the By-laws, all resolutions of acknowledgements and thanks will be referred. The Chair announced the appointment of Messrs P. L. Windsor and Chalmers Hadley as tellers in charge of the annual election of officers.

Mr A. E. BOSTWICK of the New York public library presented the

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BOOK-BUYING

The work of this Committee has gone forward during the year on the lines marked out for it in the past by the Association, with what seems to be at least a few results worth notice. We have issued seven bulletins in the usual card form, aggregating 19 pages, and containing selected lists of dealers and their catalogs,

notices of special bargains in books, of special sales etc., and advice and news of all kinds calculated to be useful to the librarians of small libraries, especially such information as seemed to us unlikely to reach them through the ordinary channels. In answer to our list of out-of-print books that should be reprinted, sent out in June, 1906, to 100 libraries, 52 reports of needed reprints were received, with statements of the number of copies that would probably be ordered, varying in the case of different titles from 82 to 19. The 14 publishers of these books were notified at once, and nine of them replied. As a result of these and later efforts several good books for some time unavailable may now be obtained both by libraries and by the general public.

We feel that the usefulness of the Committee along this line has only begun and that this direction of its activity is exceedingly practical. Publishers are glad to second our efforts for the reprinting of desirable out-of-print books, provided they can see a reasonable chance of getting their money back. To this end it is absolutely necessary that we should be able to assure them of a reasonable number of orders. In the cases where we have been enabled to do this our percentage of success has been gratifyingly large, but otherwise the publishers are not enthusiastic, nor can they be blamed. If every library in the United States will report to us immediately all demands for out-of-print books to which they desire to respond by the actual purchase of copies when available, we shall be able to do much toward making possible such purchase. In some cases, when publishers seemed apathetic, we have tried to interest third parties in the reprinting of books. The result in one case, which was somewhat unfortunate, may be cited here as an example of the difficulties attending work of this sort. An English author's books being largely out of print, we induced a New York publisher to issue certain reprints. Having made what he considered satisfactory arrangements in London for the use of the plates, he printed his books, only to find them anticipated

in the New York market by copies reprinted by the publisher himself, and offered at a slightly lower price than he was able to quote. Our efforts here were evidently fruitful, though the wrong man seems likely to reap the profit. Evidently if we had been able to offer to the London publisher as substantial evidence of the demand for the reprints as he received from the American publisher's bargaining for the use of the plates, he could have been dealt with directly. All this emphasizes anew the desirability of cooperation among libraries, which holds good in all their fields of activity but perhaps most in that of book-buying. If we cannot make our purchases as a business unit, we should at least pull together in any way that we can. This committee stands ready to do the necessary headquarters work in furthering such combined action, but although there have been notable exceptions, libraries in general have done little to indicate that they desire to act in any way except as unrelated units. Suggestions of great value have come to us from a few sources, but from only a few; and even these have generally been given in response to a definite request from us. Some of our most promising plans have miscarried because the data on which we must rely have not been forthcoming on demand.

In spite of all this, however, we feel that librarians are justified in regarding the book-buying outlook with some satisfaction and with more hope. Evidence multiplies that the library book trade is no longer a negligible quantity with publishers and booksellers, and that many of these are beginning to realize our functions as advertisers and popularizers of literature as well as mere consumers thereof. The sale of a book to a public library may possibly forestall the sale of that particular book to a dozen private purchasers, but if it is a good book, thousands will know of it through the library who would not otherwise have heard of it, and the chances are that more than a dozen of these will want to possess it. Besides this, the habit of reading and the love of

books, thus aroused, fostered and stimulated, lays the foundation for a vastly increased demand for books in the immediate future, for the home as well as for the library. This has long been the librarian's view, and apparently it is becoming to some extent recognized, if not actually adopted, by the makers and sellers of books. This Committee has done and will do all in its power to help on this growing realization of our true relations to the book-trade.

The rules of the Publishers association regarding net-book prices and their maintenance, for so many years our *bête noir*, have ceased to exist in mandatory form during the past year. Moved to this action by recent decisions of the courts, the Association has repealed its whole body of rules and re-enacted them as mere suggestions. Of course it would be futile to maintain that this holds out much prospect of immediate practical relief. The individual publisher will still for the present sell his books to the dealer under such conditions as seem good to him, and although the other members of the Association no longer agree to boycott a dealer who violates his agreement, they will undoubtedly respond favorably to the "suggestion" that they take such action. Still, the existence of great pressure, with which we are all familiar, to break the rules of the Association while they remained real rules, suggests that any weakening of them will increase the opportunity for the break-down of the whole net-price system which some authorities predict. Meanwhile it is interesting to hear that our English brothers, who have been hit even harder than we by the system as it exists across the water, are agitating for a library discount—a thing that does not now exist in Great Britain.

As regards the importation privileges of American libraries, these remain as formerly, since the Copyright bill somewhat impairing them did not pass during the recent session of Congress. The modifications to which objection has been made by so many librarians were largely eliminated from the bill in committee, so that as it

now stands, present opportunities of importation would be lessened by its passage, in only two respects, the prohibition of importation of pirated books (that is, unauthorized foreign reprints) and the restriction of importations to one copy in each invoice, instead of two, as formerly. The unfortunate division of the library camp in regard to this bill serves to illustrate what we have already said in regard to the lack of a united front among librarians, and must be regretted alike by advocates and opponents of the bill.

With the inception of the new Bulletin of the A. L. A. there seemed to be a renewed possibility that the publication of our own committee bulletins in separate form might cease. We find, however, that there are several objections to their discontinuance—(1) the necessary irregularity of their appearance, together with the long intervals between successive issues of the A. L. A. bulletin; (2) the fact that the latter publication goes only to members of the Association, while our Book-buying bulletins should reach a considerable number of outsiders; (3) the apparent liking of many librarians for the card form of publication, as evinced by demand for the cards even when the same material has appeared in full in the library periodicals. There has therefore been no change in the form of the bulletins. A considerable number are out-of-print and we renew our offer to reprint these in response to any considerable demand.

The publication by this Association of official aids to book-selection and to book-purchase in separate form and under different immediate control, makes necessary some careful differentiation of function. If the bulletins issued by this Committee may appear at times to trench on the prerogatives of the Booklist by giving advice in the selection of books, it will usually be found on examination that this deviation is only apparent and that there is a reason for it. This committee realizes that its business is to give to librarians all possible information and advice with regard to methods of expending their book-appropri-



tions, which are always too small, and if this sometimes involves discrimination between different titles, we intend to make it on the basis of economical administration rather than of purely literary selection.

Librarians have learned more than one lesson in the past five years. They know now, as they never knew before, that economical book-purchase is a more complex matter than the mere dispatch of a list to a jobber. The selection of the best editions, the decision regarding the best time to wait, the culling of needed titles from the dealer's or the auctioneer's catalog, the careful discrimination between truth and fake in book circulars, the knowledge of when it is best to import and when not—these and a score of other things involve knowledge and judgment. If the knowledge and judgment are those of the purchasing librarian, he or she need not pay for their exercise by someone else. This is the path of practical economy in book-purchase, and no librarian, be he great or small, can afford to stray from it.

The PRESIDENT: We will now pass to the first subject of this morning's program, a consideration and review of the Southern library movement, and the chair has great pleasure in introducing Miss Anne Wallace, of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, who will give a general paper.

Miss WALLACE: Before reading this paper, I would simply say in apology that it was written six weeks ago without the aid of any tools. I was on the beautiful Bay of Naples, three thousand miles away from a Carnegie library, and it was all done from memory and sent home to be corrected. I was in the hotel in which Wagner composed many of his operas, and Ibsen wrote *Peer Gynt* in the next room, and if I found it difficult to confine myself to technical matters instead of to music and poetry, you will understand the difficulty.

### THE SOUTHERN LIBRARY MOVEMENT

Title. The history of the library movement in the South, or more precisely, the

history of the free public library in the Southeastern states since the American Library Association meeting in Atlanta in 1899 conveys to you the scope and the limitations of this record. To write a comprehensive history of the public library movement in the United States the logical procedure would be to compile the history of the movement in each section. Up to this period the history of the libraries of the New England and Middle states, which for many years past and years to come, have been and will continue to be the centre of library activity, would be the history of the movement in the United States. But for the last five years the percent of increase of new libraries has been greatest in the middle West and in the South. Both of these sections have equal problems and many similar ones. Vastness of territory, absence of many large cities, together with a large rural population are facts common to both. I shall watch eagerly for the history of the West. It is of the work in the South that this paper deals.

Area and population. The section of the United States here covered extends from Virginia to Texas, and from Kentucky to Florida, a territory larger in area than that of the New England and Middle Atlantic states put together, and no one state that is not an empire in extent. In proportion to area the population is smaller and more widely distributed. The absence of large cities which act as centers of culture and means of expediting transportation makes all work of propaganda slower and more expensive.

Retarding influences. In addition to the large class of illiterate whites that every section has to carry, the South is burdened with the extra tax of the heaviest negro population of the United States. Climatic conditions that make life out of doors comfortable for nine months of the year, do not tend to develop indoor recreations which are so necessary in the frozen North. It is well also to remember that a generation is hardly a long enough period for a people to recover that material prosperity